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Using Comics and Graphic Novels with Children and Teens

Presented by Kyla Hunt and Katherine Mowery

A red speech bubble graphic with a white question mark inside, pointing towards the list of names on the right.

Who are we?

- **Kyla Hunt is the Library Management Consultant at Texas State Library and Archives Commission**
- **Katherine Mowery is currently the Teen Services Librarian at the Fox Lake District Library in Fox Lake, IL**

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Intro!

The background of the slide features several thin, curved lines in a light gray color, some solid and some dashed, creating a sense of motion or a stylized globe. A large, solid red rectangle is positioned on the left side of the slide, containing the text 'Previous webinar' in white. A small red triangle points downwards from the bottom center of this rectangle.

Previous
webinar

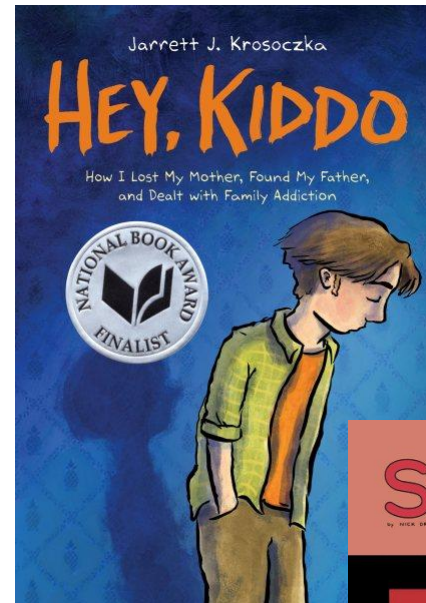
- **Graphic Novels: A Gateway for Reluctant Readers (2015)**

So, you've caught
your
child/student/patron
reading a comic...



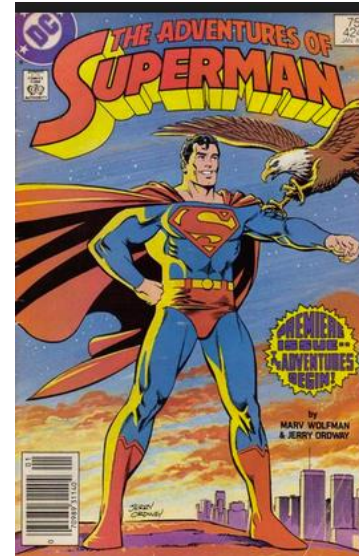
Is it a comic?
A graphic novel?
A manga?

- Graphic novel – a stand-alone title, often more “literary” in feel – can be fiction or non-fiction!



Is it a comic?
A graphic novel?
A manga?

- Comic – serialized; can be of the super-hero variety



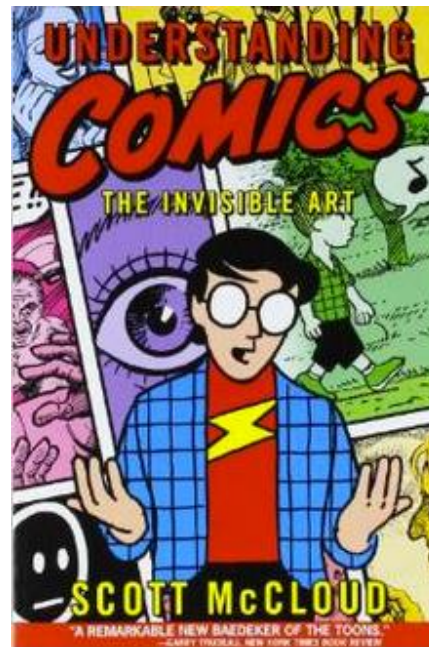
What makes
them special?

- Creative space between the panels
- Focus not just on external, but internal action



What makes
them special...

- To beginning readers?
 - Visual language
 - Puts reader in control
 - Learn language from context clues
- To young readers?
 - Can feel subversive and exciting
 - Focuses on emotion (especially manga)

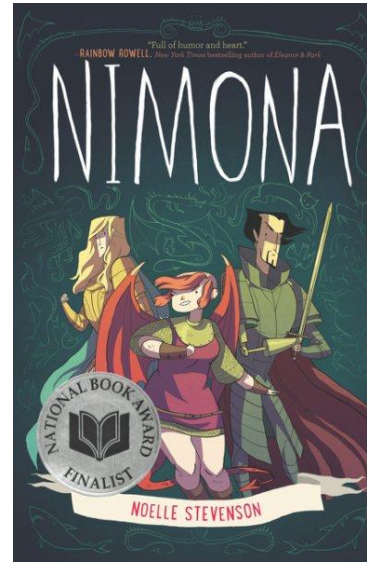


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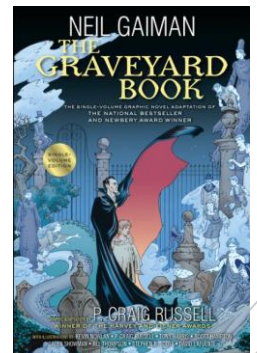
Engaging children and teens in your library

Programs

Graphic Novel Book Club



- Book Club that **only** reads graphic novels
- Book Club reads a mixture of graphic novels and other formats
- Compare and contrast graphic novel adaptations of other works with their original formats



Anime Club

- Club-directed activities
- Origami
- Learn how to draw manga
 - Bring out drawing books or host a drawing workshop
- Sample Japanese snacks (dagashi)
- Compare manga vs. anime versions
- Cosplay workshop

FUNIMATION

Weeded Comics: a New Life!

- Easy, free prize for any occasion
- Use them for any craft project that requires paper
 - Especially with Modpodge!
- Encourage teens to
- Comics Stickers & Buttons



Comic-cons

- Throughout the day:
 - Local comic bookstore booth in library
 - Cosplay Photo Booth (photo studio?)
 - Fan Meet-ups
 - Game table
- Scheduled speakers and events:
 - Comic creation
 - Author speaker
 - Game creator
 - Zombie Survival Program
 - Cosplay Contest
 - Movie Showing



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Resources and
recommendations

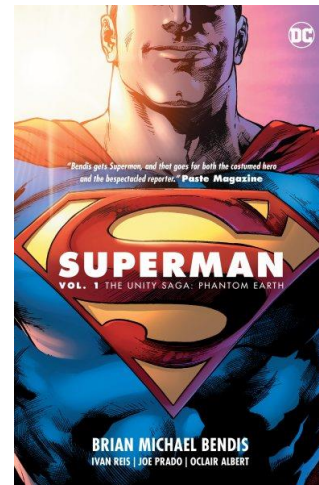
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Quirks of Graphic Novel Collection Development

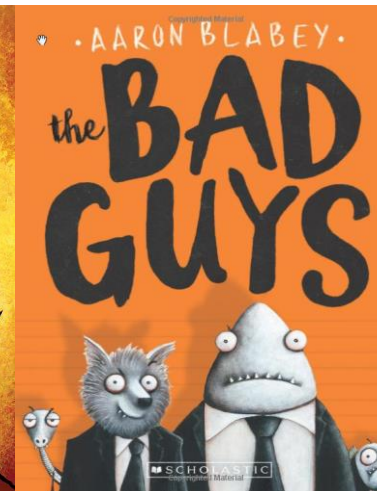
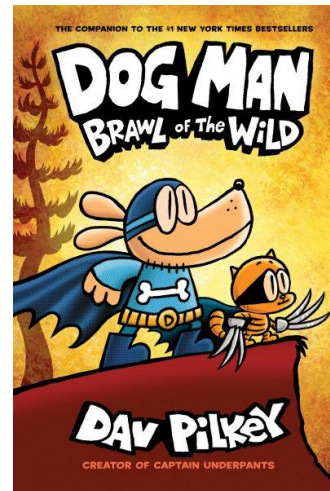
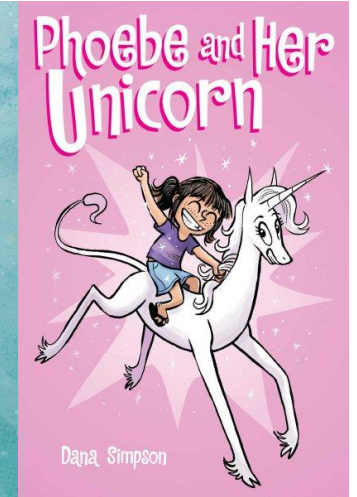
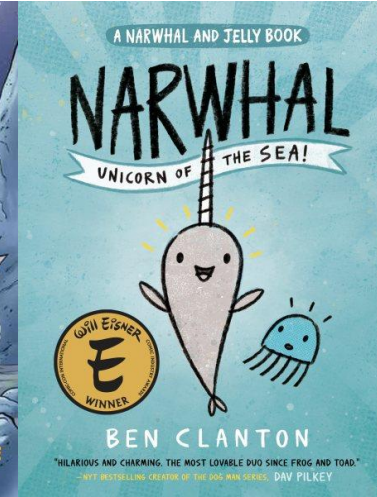
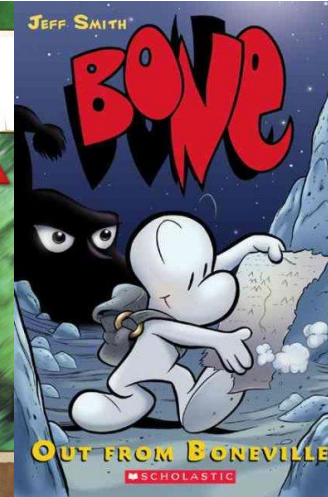
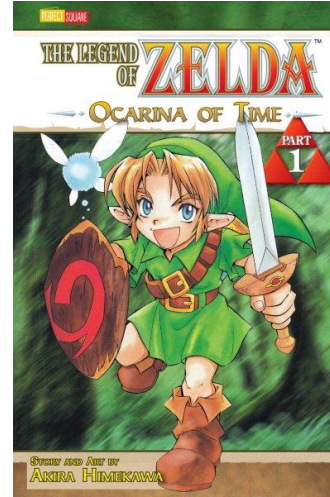
- Shelf space for a series
- Author/Creator change mid-series
- Hardcover vs. Paperback vs. Omnibus editions
- Quality of binding
- Nonfiction comics
- When to weed a series?

Marvel & DC

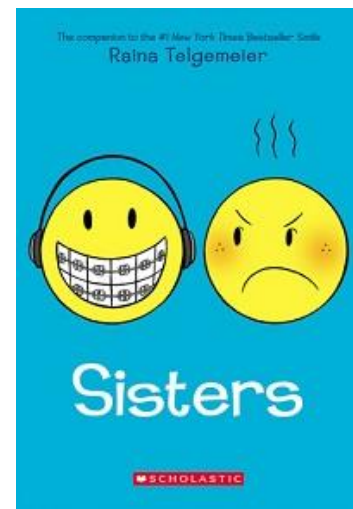
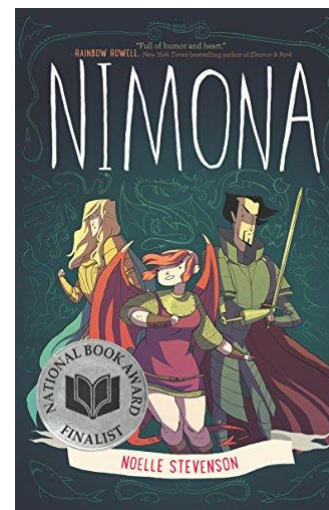
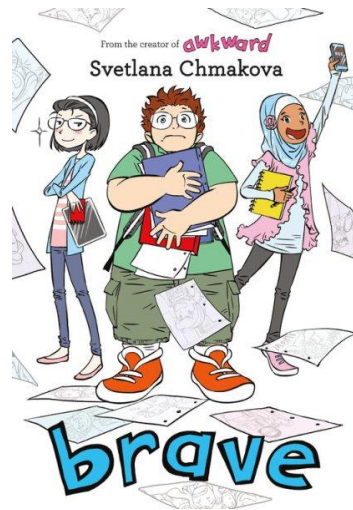
- Multiple series with the same or similar titles – sometimes the same authors as well
- Frequent changes in staffing in a single series
- Very large universe of characters with decades of backstory
- Both publishers have rebooted their entire universes multiple times



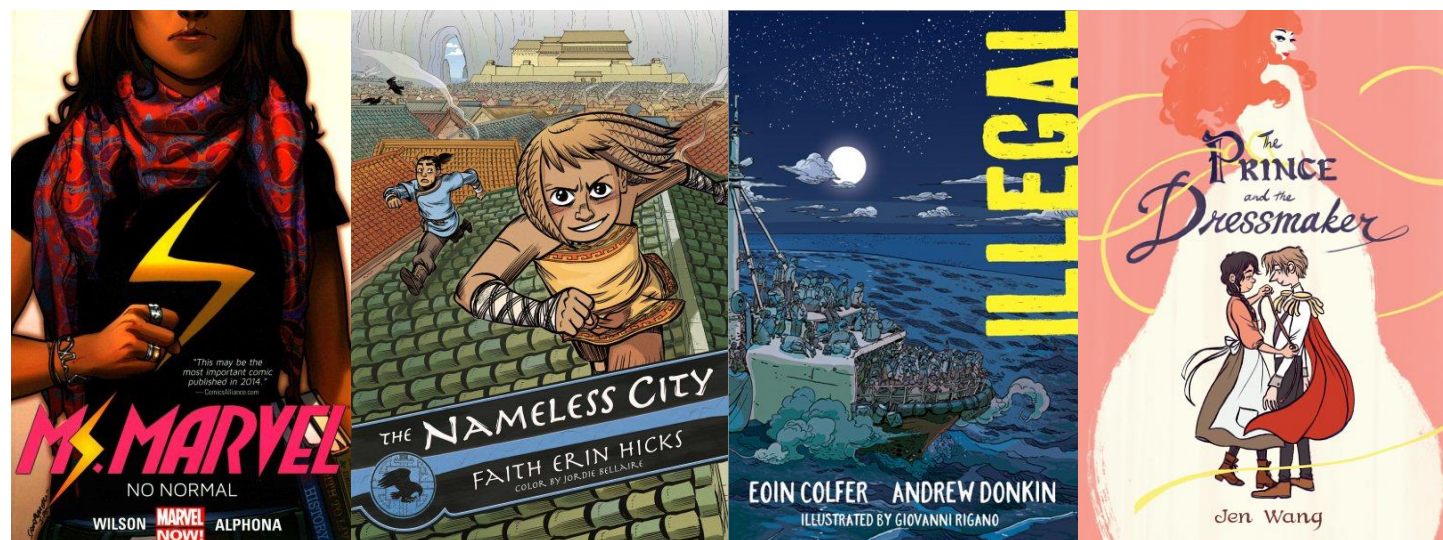
Titles for Elementary Readers



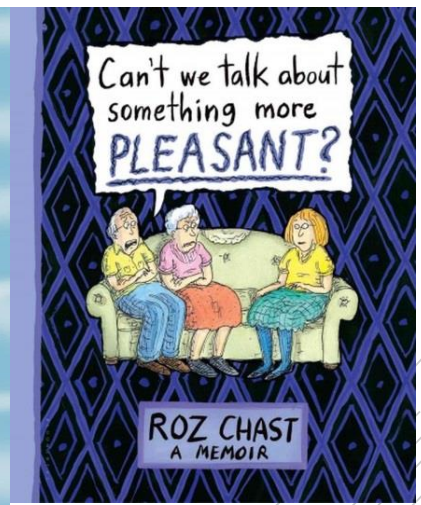
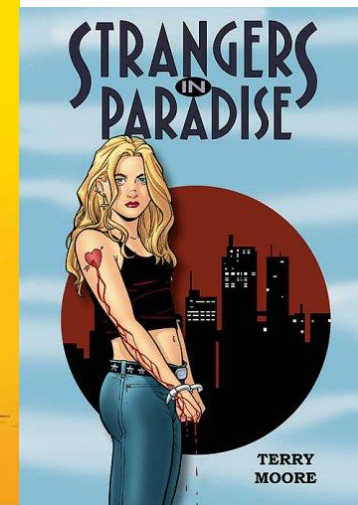
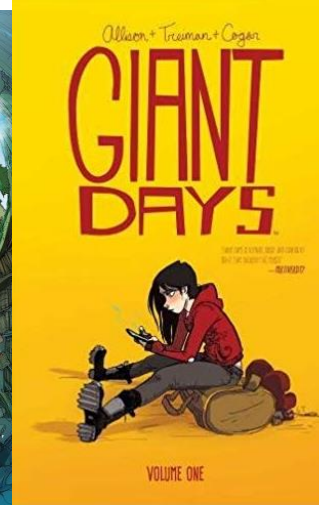
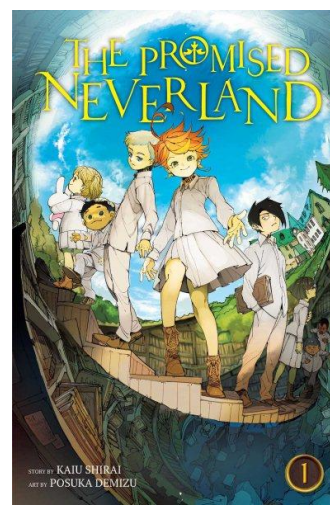
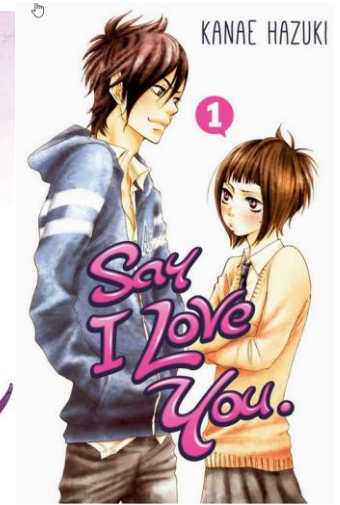
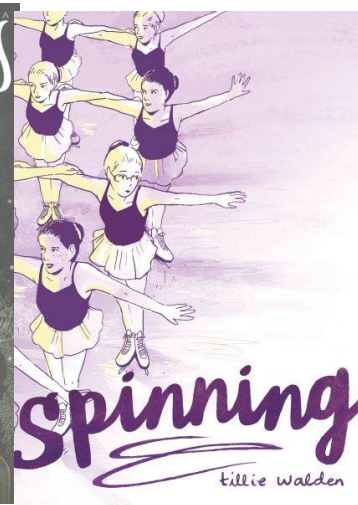
Middle Grade Titles



Young Teen Recommendations



Older Teen & Adult Titles



Sites focusing on comics and education

- TOON Books - <http://www.toon-books.com/>
- Reading with Pictures - <http://www.readingwithpictures.org/>
- Comics in Education <http://geneyang.com/comicsedu/>
- Comic Book Legal Defense Fund <http://cblddf.org/>



Sources for Reviews & New Titles

- Journals
- Blogs
- Publishers
- Twitter & Instagram
- Book Awards
 - Eisner Awards
 - Comics that win or are nominated for non-comics awards
- ALA Resources
 - YALSA's Great Graphic Novels for Teens
 - ALSC's Notable Children's Books
 - GNCRT
- Look at the comics non-book retailers are carrying
 - Target, Costco, Walmart

Get Involved!



GRAPHIC NOVELS & COMICS ROUND TABLE

A ROUND TABLE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

WHAT WE DO

- Advocate for and promote comics and graphic novels
- Develop programming and create Pop-Up libraries at comic conventions and library conferences
- Administer the Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries
- Provide networking opportunities for library staff and educators involved with graphic novels and comics
- Curate and create resources for collection development, best practices, and programming
- Create outreach opportunities to grow membership and allow more access to our resources
- Discuss and advocate for issues around cataloging and metadata



Get Involved!

The GNCRT is a collaborative organization dedicated to supporting library staff in all aspects of engaging with graphic novels and comics.



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@libcomix



<http://bit.ly/GNCRTConnect>



@libcomix



<http://www.ala.org/rt/gncrt>

JOIN US HERE:

<http://ec.ala.org/membership/join>



Questions?